§ 225.42 Notice of the percentage amount of a cost-of-living increase.

The percentage amount of the cost-of-living increase is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER by the Secretary of Health and Human Services within 45 days of the end of the measuring period used in finding the increase.

§ 225.43 PIA's subject to cost-of-living increases.

The Retirement Tier I, Overall Minimum, Survivor Tier I, Employee RIB and RLS PIA's are adjusted for cost-of-living increases. The remaining PIA's described in subparts B and C of this part are frozen at the amounts determined under the Social Security Act as in effect on December 31, 1974.

§ 225.44 When a cost-of-living increase is payable.

A cost-of-living increase is payable beginning with December of the year for which the increase is due. The increase is paid in the January payment.

Subpart F—Recomputing PIA's

§ 225.50 General.

After an annuitant begins receiving an annuity, the PIA's may be recomputed as explained in § 225.52. Most recomputations result in an increase in the PIA. The Board pays a recomputed PIA when an increase of at least $1 results. Most recomputations are processed automatically and require no action by the annuitant.

§ 225.51 PIA's that are subject to recomputation.

The following PIA's are subject to recomputation—
(a) Tier I PIA;
(b) Survivor Tier I PIA;
(c) Overall Minimum PIA;
(d) Employee RIB PIA; and
(e) Residual Lump-Sum PIA.

§ 225.52 Reasons for recomputing a PIA.

There are three major reasons for recomputing a PIA:
(a) Recomputation to consider additional earnings.
(b) Recomputation when an employee is eligible for periodic pension payments based on other than railroad or social security earnings.
(c) Recomputation to use a new or different PIA formula, as provided in section 215(f) of the Social Security Act.

§ 225.53 Recomputation to consider additional earnings.

(a) *Additional earnings that cause a recomputation*—(1) *Earnings not included in earlier computation or recomputation.* The most common reason for recomputing a PIA is to include earnings that were not used previously, as described in paragraphs (a)(2) through (a)(4) of this section. The inclusion of these earnings may result in a revised Average Monthly Earnings or revised Average Indexed Monthly Earnings amount and, consequently, cause recomputation of the PIA.

(2) *Earnings in the year an employee becomes entitled to an age annuity or becomes disabled.* Earnings in the year an employee becomes entitled to an age annuity or becomes disabled are not used in the initial computation of the PIA. However, the Board does consider those earnings in a recomputation of the PIA and begins paying the higher benefits at the time described in paragraph (b) of this section.

(3) *Earnings not reported in time to use them in the computation of the PIA.* Because of the way reports of earnings are made, the earnings an employee has in the year before he or she becomes entitled to an annuity, becomes disabled, or dies, might not be reported in time to use them in computing the PIA. The Board recomputes the PIA with the new earnings information and begins paying annuitants the higher benefits based on the additional earnings at the time described in paragraph (b) of this section.

(4) *Earnings after entitlement that are used in a recomputation.* Earnings for a year after an employee becomes entitled to an annuity are used in a recomputation of a PIA when the earnings are higher than those for a year used in the previous PIA computation.

(b) *Effective date of recomputation to consider additional earnings.* A PIA that is recomputed to include additional earnings becomes payable at the latest of the following times:

(1) Date the annuity begins.

(2) January of the year following the year an employee receiving an age annuity attains age 62.

(3) January of the year following the year an employee becomes disabled.

(4) January of the year following the year in which the earnings are earned.

Example: Mr. Jones, a railroad employee, becomes entitled to an age annuity in June 1986, at the age of 62. Although Mr. Jones has earnings of $23,000 in the first five months of 1986, those earnings cannot be used in the initial computation of the Tier I PIA. However, effective with January 1, 1987, the Tier I PIA is recomputed to include the earnings for 1986.

§ 225.54 Recomputation when an employee is eligible for periodic pension payments based on other than railroad or social security earnings.

(a) *Description.* This recomputation serves as a reduction in the PIA for entitlement to a periodic pension based, in part or in whole, on earnings after 1956 not covered under either the Social Security Act or the Railroad Retirement Act. A recomputation for a periodic pension is made in accordance with sections 215(a)(7) and 215(f)(9) of the Social Security Act. A recomputation affecting the Retirement Tier I, Overall Minimum, or Residual Lump-Sum PIA is required when all the following conditions exist—

(1) The employee has less than 30 years of coverage as defined in section 215(a) of the Social Security Act. The years of coverage include railroad and social security earnings;

(2) The employee becomes eligible for an annuity after 1985; and

(3) The employee becomes eligible for the periodic pension payments after 1985 based, in part or in whole, on earnings after 1956 not covered under either the Social Security Act or the Railroad Retirement Act.

(b) *Effective date of recomputation.* The Retirement Tier I, Overall Minimum or Residual Lump-Sum PIA is recomputed when the employee becomes eligible for a periodic pension payment based on other than railroad or social security earnings. However, payment of the recomputed PIA is effective with the month in which the employee becomes entitled to the periodic pension.

§ 225.55 Recomputation to use a new or different PIA formula.

(a) *Description*—(1) *New computation formula.* If a new formula for computing or recomputing PIA's is enacted into law and the annuitant is eligible for the recomputation, the Board will recompute the PIA under the new formula.

(2) *Recomputation under different formula.* In some cases, a PIA may be recomputed under a computation formula different from the formula used in the computation (or earlier recomputation) of the PIA. The annuitant must be eligible for a computation or recomputation under the different formula.

(b) *Effective date of recomputation*—(1) *New computation formula.* A PIA recomputed under a newly enacted formula is effective with the month as directed in the legislation that establishes the new formula. The new PIA formula applies when it produces a PIA that is higher than the amount on which the existing annuity is based.

(2) *Different computation formula.* A PIA recomputed under a different formula is effective with the first month that the different formula produces a PIA that is higher than the PIA on which the existing annuity is based.

§ 225.56 Automatic recomputation.

Periodically, the Board reviews the earnings record of every retired, disabled and recently deceased employee to see if a recomputation of the PIA is necessary. When a recomputation is called for due to a change in the reported railroad or social security earnings, the Board processes it automatically. Increased benefits resulting from a recomputation are paid from the earliest month that the recomputation is effective. The annuitant does not have to request a recomputation to consider additional earnings, although the annuitant may request a recomputation before the automatic recomputation is processed. However, the effective date of the recomputation is the same, whether the recomputation is done automatically or at the request of the annuitant.

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